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LETTER DATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CAPE VERDE AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Portuguese, French and English versions of the following documents:

- The ceasefire agreement, and its appendices I and II, concluded between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta and co-signed by the Committee of Seven of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Contact Group of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) at the end of a meeting held at Praia, Cape Verde, on 25 and 26 August 1998 (see annex I);

- The final communiqué of the joint Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)/Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) consultative meeting on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, held at Praia on 25 and 26 August 1998 (see annex II).

We should be grateful if you would have these documents distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bernard TANOH-BOUTCHOUE
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to the
United Nations

(Signed) José LUIS MONTEIRO
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Cape Verde to the
United Nations

Annex I

[Original: English and French]

Ceasefire agreement in Guinea-Bissau

Under the joint chairmanship of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta met in Praia on 25 August 1998 and decided to transform the truce agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding signed at Bissau on 26 July 1998 into a ceasefire based on the following principles:

Article 1

The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta agree to an immediate ceasefire based on the principles indicated below:

(a) Reaffirmation of the public recognition of democratic institutions and legality;

(b) Freezing of their respective military positions held at the time of the entry into force of the Memorandum of Understanding of 26 July 1998;

(c) Reopening the Osvaldo Vieira Airport in order to facilitate the viability of humanitarian aid, the logistic support to the ceasefire observation mission and the return of refugees;

(d) Deployment of observation and interposition forces, to be defined through negotiations;

(e) Strengthening of the opening of humanitarian corridors;

(f) Creation of conditions which may facilitate the return of refugees and resettlement of displaced persons.

Article 2

Annexes I and II to the Memorandum of Understanding dated 26 July 1998 are an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 3

This Agreement will enter into force on 26 August 1998, at 2 a.m.

DONE at Praia, 26 August 1998.

For the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau:

(Signed)

For the Self-denominated Military Junta:

(Signed)

For the ECOWAS Group of Seven:

(Signed)

For the CPLP Contact Group:

(Signed)

Appendix I

Appendix relative to the understanding of paragraph 1 (c) of the Memorandum of Understanding of 26 July 1998 between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta

For the purposes of subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding of 26 July 1998 between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta, establishing a formal and immediate truce, and the launching of the negotiations, both Parties agreed on the following:

1. To freeze their respective military positions held at the time of the entry into force of the truce established in the Memorandum of Understanding;

2. To engage in the withdrawal of the respective military forces from the Mansoa area, as soon as the interposition or observation force is deployed in the said area. This military interposition or observation force shall secure and guarantee the demilitarization of Mansoa area until a final solution is reached through the negotiation process, also established in the said Memorandum of Understanding.

Bissau, 26 July 1998.

For the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau:

For the Self-denominated Military Junta:

For the Contact Group of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP):

Appendix II

Declaration

The Self-denominated Military Junta declares, before the Contact Group of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), to be in the disposition of laying down arms under the terms to be defined in the context of a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Bissau, 26 July 1998.

For the Self-denominated Military Junta:

Annex II

[Original: English and French]

Final communiqué of the joint Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)/Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) consultative meeting on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, held at Praia, Cape Verde, on 25 and 26 August 1998

1. A joint meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the ECOWAS Committee of Seven on Guinea-Bissau and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) Contact Group was held at Praia, Republic of Cape Verde, on 25 [and 26] August 1998, under the joint chairmanship of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire and Cape Verde, Messrs. Amara Essy and José Luis Jesus. The aim of the meeting was to coordinate their mediation efforts, within the framework of ECOWAS, aimed at restoring peace in Guinea-Bissau.

2. The following member States were present at the meeting:

ECOWAS member States

- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Republic of The Gambia
- Republic of Guinea
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Senegal

CPLP member States

- Republic of Angola
- Federative Republic of Brazil
- Republic of Cape Verde
- Republic of Mozambique
- Republic of Portugal
- Republic of Sao Tome and Principe

3. Representatives of the ECOWAS and CPLP secretariats also participated in the meeting.

4. The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations was present at the meeting, on special invitation.

5. Also present at the meeting were representatives of the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta.

6. The participants exchanged views and held frank and constructive discussions with regard to their joint mediation efforts of the crisis in Guinea-Bissau.

7. During the meeting, the ECOWAS Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group agreed on a common strategy to be adopted during the negotiations.

8. The participants exchanged views on political and military matters as well as issues relating to regional security.

9. The meeting sought the views of the parties to the conflict on the proposed agenda. No amendments were made.

10. The meeting noted with satisfaction that the parties to the conflict had agreed to a truce, brokered by CPLP, and commended CPLP for its efforts.

11. In order to consolidate the fragile peace now holding in Guinea-Bissau and ensure that it is not short-lived, the parties to the conflict, encouraged by the ECOWAS Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group, agreed to transform the current truce into a ceasefire.

12. The representatives of the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta then proceeded to sign the ceasefire agreement.

13. The meeting also agreed on the need to put in place a mechanism to supervise and monitor the ceasefire. The modalities for its implementation will be finalized during the next meeting.

14. The Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-denominated Military Junta considered the issue of the Osvaldo Vieira airport which remained closed and agreed on the need to reopen it in order to:

- Ease the movement of humanitarian aid;

- Provide the logistic support for the ceasefire observer team;

- Facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons.

15. The meeting called on the international community to assist the people of Guinea-Bissau.

16. The ECOWAS Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group agreed that their next meeting will be hold in Côte d'Ivoire on 12 September 1998.

17. This will be preceded by a meeting of Chiefs of Staff or military experts of States members of the Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group which will be held on 10 September to consider the technical, logistic and operational aspects of the observer team for the monitoring of the ceasefire and the interposition forces with respect to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/Guinea-Bissau borders.

18. The ministerial meeting will consider:

- The continuation of discussions on the issues under negotiation;

- The establishment of an observer team; and

- The composition and all other aspects relative to the deployment of the interposition forces under the framework of the establishment of a buffer zone along the Senegal/Guinea-Bissau borders.

19. The ECOWAS Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency, Mr. António Mascarenhas Monteiro, president of the Republic, the Government and the people of Cape Verde for the kind hospitality extended to them and for the excellent facilities put at their disposal to ensure the success of their meeting.

DONE at Praia this 25th day of August 1998.